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THE YUKON TRAIL

By WILLIAM McLEOD RAINE.

CHAPTER XXXII

Diane Changes Her Mind.

"The news of Sheba's safety had been telephoned to Diane from the roadhouse, so that all the family from Peter down were on the porch to welcome her with mingled tears and kisses. Since Gordon had to push on to the hospital to have Holt taken care of, it was Macdonald who brought the girl home. The nineteen-year-old girl, however, had been invited to stay to dinner on the plea that she had business at the office which would not wait."

Impulsively she held out both her hands to him. "Believe me, I am thinking you with the whole of my heart, my friend. And I'm praying for you, the old Irish blessing, God save you kindly."

"The deepest, rapacious eyes of the Scotchman burned into hers for an instant. Without a word he released her hands and turned away."

Her eyes followed him, a vital, dynamic American who would not be less than the day of his death. She sighed. He had been a great figure in her life, and now he had passed out of it."

"As soon as she was alone with Diane, her Irish cousin dropped the little bomb she had up her sleeve."

"I'm going to be married Thursday, D."

Mrs. Padgett embraced her for the tenth time within the hour. She was very fond of Sheba, and she had been on a great strain concerning her safety. That out of her danger had resulted the engagement Diane had hoped for was a surprise of good luck.

"You lucky, sensible girl!" Sheba assented demurely. "I do think I'm sensible as well as lucky. I don't every girl that knows the right man for her even when he wants her. But I know at last. He's the man for me out of ten million."

"I'm sure of it, dear. Oh, I am so glad." Diane hugged her again. She couldn't help it."

"One gets to know a man pretty well on a trip like that. I wouldn't change him for any one that was ever made. I like everything about him, D. I am the happiest girl."

"I'm so glad you see it that way at last. It's a relief to the whole aspect of the situation. But Thursday. Will that give us time, my dear? And who are you going to have here?"

"Just the family. I've invited two guests, but neither of them can come. One has a broken leg and the other says he doesn't want to see me married to another man." Sheba explained with a smile.

"So Gordon won't come?"

"Yes. He'll have to be here. We can't get along without the bridegroom. It wouldn't be a legal marriage, would it?"

Diane looked at her for the moment dumb. "You little wretch! She's got out at last. So it's Gordon, is it. Are you quite sure this time? Not likely to change your mind before Thursday?"

"I suppose, to an outsider, I do seem like that." Miss O'Neill admitted smilingly. "But Gordon and I both understand that."

"And Colby Macdonald—does he understand it too?"

"Oh, yes! He smile grew broader. "He told me that he didn't think I would quite suit him, after all. Not enough experience for the place."

Diane flashed a suspicious look of inquiry. "Of course that's nonsense. What did he tell you?"

"Something like that. He will marry Mrs. Mallory, I think, though he doesn't know it yet."

"You mean she'll see him on the rebound," said Diane bluntly.

"That isn't a nice way to put it. He has always liked her very much. He is fond of her for what she is. What attracted him in me were the things his imagination gave to me."

"And Gordon likes you, I suppose, for what you are?"

Sheba did not resent the little note of friendly sarcasm. "I suppose he has. I know me, too, but by the time he finds out what I am he'll have to put up with me."

"The arrival of Elliot interrupted confidences. He had come, he said, to receive congratulations."

"What in the world have you been doing with your face?" demanded Diane. "As an afterthought she added: 'Mr. Macdonald is all cut up too.'"

"We've been taking massage treatment," Gordon passed to a subject of more immediate interest. "Do I get my congratulations, D?"

"She kissed him, for old sake's sake. 'I do believe you'll suit Sheba better than Colby Macdonald would. He's a great man and you are not. But it isn't everybody that is fit to be the wife of a great man.'"

"That's a double, left-handed compliment," laughed Gordon. "But you can't say anything that will hurt my feelings today, D. Isn't that your baby I hear crying. What a heartless mother you are!"

Diane gave him the few minutes alone with Sheba that his gay smile had asked for. "Get out with you," she said, laughing. "Go to the top of the hill and look at the lovers' moon I've ordered there expressly for you; and while you are there forget that there are going to be crying babies and nursemaids with evening out in that golden future of yours."

"Come along, Sheba. We'll start now on the golden trail," said Elliot.

She walked as if she loved it. Her long, slender legs moved rhythmically and her arms swung true as pendulums.

"The moon was all that Diane had promised. Sheba drank it in happily."

"I believe I must be a pagan. I love the sun and the moon and I know it's all true about the little folk

and the pied piper and—"

"If it's paganism to be in love with the world, you are a thirty-third degree pagan."

"Well, was there ever a more beautiful night before?"

"He thought not, but he had not the words to tell her that his beauty lay largely in her presence. Her passionate love of things fine and brave transformed the universe for him. It was enough for him to be near her, to hear the laughter bubbling in her throat, to touch her crisp, blue-black hair as he adjusted the scarf about her head."

"God made the night," he replied. "So that's a Christian thought as well as a pagan one."

"They were no exception to the rule that lovers are egotists. The world for them tonight divided itself into two classes. One included Sheba O'Neill and Gordon Elliot; the other took in the uninteresting remnant of humanity. No matter how far along their talk began, it always came back to themselves. They wanted to know all about each other, to compare experiences and points of view. But time fled too fast for words. They talked as lovers will to the end of time—in exclamations and the meeting of eyes and little endearments."

When Diane and Peter found them on the hill-top, Sheba protested, with her half-smile, half-audacious smile, that it could not be two hours since she and Gordon had left the living room. Peter grinned. He remembered a hilltop consecrated to his own courtship of Diane."

The only wedding present that Macdonald sent Sheba was a long envelope with two documents attached by a clip. One was from the Kuskokwim. It announced that the search party with the rest of the stolen gold had found him. The other was a copy of a legal document. Its effect was that the district attorney had dismissed all charges pending against Gordon Elliot."

Although Macdonald lost the coal claims at Kamatlah by reason of the report of Elliot, all Alaska still believed that he was right. In that country of strong men he stands head and shoulders above his fellows. He has the fortunate gift of commanding the admiration of his friends and the respect of his enemies. The lady who is his wife is secretly the greatest of his slaves, but she tries not to let him know how much he has captured her imagination. For Genevieve Macdonald cannot quite understand, herself, how so elemental an emotion as love can have pierced the armor of her sophistication.

(The End.)

BACK OF THE LINES.

Things Necessary to Be Done by the People at Home.

Every one knows what the fighting man has to do. His business, in the main, is to fight. But how about the work of those behind the lines?

I have in mind, as a prelude, two major league ball clubs. The first team had the leadership and the material to win with. There was no question of this. But the fan support at home was lacking—both in the way of attendance and direct encouragement. The home fans apparently took it for granted that the team would win the pennant and for this or other reasons, were lukewarm in their support, allowing everything of managerial or playing mistakes.

The result was a purely human tragedy. The club finally became discouraged to wonder just what the use was in playing for that type of support. Needless to say it lost the flag. The second team had good average material, but nothing bordering upon the inevitable. But it carried the full and complete support of its home fans who paid their money at the box office and who stood back of their club on the field, as loyal in defeat as in victory. Back in the grand stands and the bleachers they helped to fight for their club. This team, with its morale fully molded by such support, fought its way to the front, and held the peak against better looking clubs.

These are not hypothetical cases. They are not what might have happened. They are what actually took place.

War is only a game upon a mighty scale. Like any other game, it requires leadership, material, team play, training, sacrifice, and support back of the lines.

What are the concrete, definite ways of giving this "support back of the lines?"

"This war," remarked an Hay (Maj. Beith) recently, "will be won by the allies to a certainty, if the nerve and nerves of the people back of the lines only hold out."

Nerve and the control of nerves is needed back of the lines fully as much as in the field.

What are the ways there?

"There is an old golf maxim which advises, 'Keep your eye on the ball.' This maxim is incorrectly arranged. It should read, 'Keep your mind on the ball.'"

There are too many who keep their eye on certain injunctions to "help Hoover," "cut down the meat supply," "economize," "buy Liberty bonds," "help the Red Cross," etc.

Their eye is focused properly, but their mind is not yet rightly adjusted.

Those back of the lines, who are not in position to serve at the front can help immeasurably to win this war and end it with greater speed if they will only keep their minds upon the injunctions of the day—if they will keep their minds upon economizing, upon sacrificing, upon swinging into line with the most effective team play the world has ever known.

The enemy who "does his bit" on the ball field never wins a pennant. It is the one who "does his job" who does not waver through the depths of this war. This goal can only be reached by united team play back of the lines. The longer citizens put off their day of complete sacrifice, of needed economy, of complete team play, the longer of course will be the greater the sacrifice that waits ahead.

Many a pennant has been lost—many a football game has gone wrong—because each man thought the other fellow would make the play or do the work. Team play is built of no such thought. It is made up of opposite ingredients—it is made up of each man taking upon himself the job of doing his full and complete share, leaving nothing to fate, luck or destiny, taking nothing for granted but the accomplishment of the job at hand.

United for team play back of the lines, as it will have the impetus to carry it to the greatest goal—the world has ever dreamed of—a swift and proper peace—Gratland Rice.

—The New York Food Administration a few days ago seized from Pincus Friedman, an East Side food-seller, fifteen tons of sugar that he had hoarded, presumably for speculative purposes. The sugar was sold at a pound, some of it to hospitals and charitable institutions and the balance to about 500 retail grocers for distribution among the people.

Nevertheless the Bolsheviks, acting on the principle of a separate rather than a general peace—which they have definitely abandoned—make no pre-emptory demand of Germany to state its peace terms on any but the Russian front. These terms being insisted the Bolsheviks may continue in negotiations for a separate peace on the assumption that the Kaiser's terms on the western front would be in accord with a democratic peace.

On the contrary the French Socialists, the British Laborites, and the Socialist faction which composed the majority in all the national elected bodies of Russia, until violently ousted by the Bolsheviks, believe that the attitude of the German government is sufficiently clear—for the reason that neither the Junker military party nor the reichstag majority nor even the minority Socialists have conceded, or shown any sign of conceding, a single one of the seven concrete points of President Wilson's peace terms. The position of the German minority Socialists on these points, moreover, is identical with that of the Bolsheviks.

The French Socialists, British Laborites and Russian Social Revolutionists are therefore in accord that there is no prospect whatever of securing a democratic peace from Germany without revolution or military defeat.—William English Walling, of the Vigilantes.

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APPROACHING THE CRISIS

President Wilson Says War Will Be Settled in 1918.

PLAIN TALK TO AMERICAN FARMERS

The issue in this war is the same as the issue in the American Revolution—it is a question of Liberty, the Right of the People to Govern Themselves.

Washington, Jan. 31.—In a message to the nation's farmers delivered today to an agricultural conference at Urbana, Ill., President Wilson said that the war would on both sides be thought of as a struggle for the ultimate triumph of the war had come and this year's achievements would decide it.

The message, which the president intended to present personally until attacked by a cold several days ago, was delivered by President James of the University of Illinois. Recounting the aggressions of Germany, the president said:

"We are fighting, therefore, as truly for the liberty and self-government of the United States as if we were fighting for our own revolution and every man in every business in the United States must know by this time that his whole future fortune lies in the balance."

"Our national life and our whole future development will pass under the sinister influences of foreign control if we do not win. We must win, therefore, and we shall win. I need not ask you to pledge your lives and fortunes with those of the rest of the nation to the accomplishment of this great end."

"You will realize, as I think statesmen on both sides of the water realize, that the culminating crisis of the struggle has come and that the achievements of this year on one side or the other must determine this issue."

Farmers at Lexington.

The president recalled that farmers fired the first shots at Lexington that set aflame the American revolution for liberty, and expressed the hope and belief that American farmers now will willingly and conspicuously stand by to win this war also. The toll, the intelligence, the energy, the foresight, the self-sacrifice and devotion of the farmers of America will, I believe, bring to a triumphant conclusion this great war for the emancipation of men from the control of arbitrary government and the subjugation of class legislation and control, and then, when the end has come, we may look back on other in the face and be glad that we are Americans and have had the privilege to play such a part."

WHISKY RUNNING LOW.

Present Outlook is That Supply Will Be Exhausted in Eighteen Months.

Whisky bibbers of the country, at their present rate of consumption, are drinking themselves out of a supply. So rapid is the rate that all of the whisky in the United States will be gone in eighteen months, the summer of 1919.

This is the conservative estimate of government officials, who have been watching the rate of flow from the warehouses since the president's proclamation stopping distilling on September 8. There are only about 157,000 gallons left in these warehouses.

The normal per capita consumption of whisky in the United States is about one gallon a year. This is a statistical way of saying the annual normal consumption is 100,000,000 gallons a year. At this rate the available supply, figuring from February 1, will last a little more than eighteen months, but expert authorities say that the old 7,000,000 barrel stockpile during the eighteen months period and that all the whisky left on August 1, 1917, will be in private hands and that it will not be much at that.

There is a comparatively large supply of whisky in private hands which the experts cannot trace. It is expected that the supply held by consumers will increase in ratio as the stocks in the warehouse go down. This is where much of the old 7,000,000 gallons will go.

When the lid was dropped down by the presidential proclamation there were approximately 165,000,000 gallons of whisky in the country. Since September 8, there has been no legitimate distilling and no whisky can be imported. Beer consumption has fallen off rapidly under prohibition, but there is no diminution in the amount of whisky that is apparently consumed despite the spread of dry territory.

With the whisky famine will come a drop in the government revenues of approximately \$32,000,000 a year. The present tax on whisky is \$3.20 a gallon and the tax is paid upon the approximate consumption of 100,000,000 gallons a year. This revenue will have to be made up in other ways. The government, therefore, has in all but \$300,000,000 more to collect in whisky taxes on a basis of 157,000,000 gallons at \$3.20 a gallon.

During the four months since distilling was stopped withdrawals of spirits for beverage purposes have been unusually light, according to figures of the internal revenue bureau.

While the whisky stock is being rapidly exhausted production of distilled spirits for other purposes is apparently increasing. More than 10,000,000 gallons of alcohol were denatured in November last.

And the Record is one of Soldiers.

One of the peculiar facts concerning the entrance of America into the war is the stimulus given to reading and discussion of the American Civil war. The Journal of Civil War histories in America has become almost a mania and more books treating of the great conflict have been sold in England in one year than in America during the last two years.

The reason is simple: England and the allies generally "want a line" on the American as a fighting man. The adequate criterion because we had Spain so hopelessly outclassed from the beginning. But some of the greatest battles in the history of the world were fought in the Civil War. The percentage of death losses in actual battle were higher than that of any other war ever fought. The verdict seems to be that Americans know a good deal about the sanguinary business of killing.

In the field of agriculture we have agencies and instrumentalities, fortunately, such as no other government in the world can show. The department of agriculture is undoubtedly the greatest practical and scientific agricultural organization in the world.

The banking legislation of the last two or three years has given the farmers access to the great lending facilities of the country.

Both by direct purchase of nitrates and by the establishment of plants to produce nitrates, the government is doing its utmost to assist in the problem of fertilization. The department of agriculture and other agencies are actively assisting the farm-

ers to locate, safeguard and secure at cost an adequate supply of sound seed. The department has \$2,500,000 available for this purpose now and has asked the congress for \$6,000,000 more.

"The labor problem is one of great difficulty and some of the best agencies of the nation are addressing themselves to the task of solving it, so far as it is possible to solve it."

Farmers' Response Splendid.

And let me say that the stimulation of the agencies I have enumerated has been responded to by the farmers and splendidly. Last spring the planting exceeded by twelve million acres the largest planting of any previous year, and the yields from the crops were record-breaking yields. In the fall of 1917 a wheat acreage of 42,170,000 was planted, which was one million larger than for any preceding year, three millions greater than the next largest, and seven millions greater than the preceding five-year average.

"But I ought to say to you that it is not only necessary that these achievements should be repeated, but that they should be exceeded."

"I will not appeal to you to continue and renew and increase your efforts. I do not believe that it is necessary to do so. I believe that you will do it without any word or appeal from me, because you understand as well as I do the needs and opportunities of this great hour when the fortunes of mankind everywhere seem about to be determined and when America has the greatest opportunity she has ever had to make good her own freedom and in making it good to lend a helping hand to men struggling for their freedom everywhere."

You remember that it was from the farmer from whom came the first shots at Lexington, that set aflame the revolution that made America free. I hope and believe that the farmers of America will willingly and conspicuously stand by to win this war also. The toll, the intelligence, the energy, the foresight, the self-sacrifice and devotion of the farmers of America will, I believe, bring to a triumphant conclusion this great war for the emancipation of men from the control of arbitrary government and the subjugation of class legislation and control, and then, when the end has come, we may look back on other in the face and be glad that we are Americans and have had the privilege to play such a part."

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TOLD BY LOCAL EXCHANGES

News Happenings in Neighboring Communities.

CONDENSED FOR QUICK READING

Dealing Mainly With Local Affairs of Cherokee, Cleveland, Gaston, Chester and Lancaster Counties.

Cleveland Star, (Shelby) Jan. 31: One of Shelby's aged and most noble citizens, Dr. Richard W. Ward, a retired physician and a Christian gentleman of culture and wealth, died here Wednesday morning at 10.15, after several weeks' illness of a gripe and old age. He would have been 80 years old next month.

The Florida paper, published twice a week at Tarpon Springs prepares to issue next week a small daily with Milton Tiddy, managing editor and owner and R. D. James editor. It is a neat sheet and we wish our former Shelby man much success in his adventure in journalism in which receipts are uncertain and expenses certain. It will be a morning daily, carrying the Associated Press dispatches.

A gallant Confederate soldier at the age of fifteen and an honest, upright citizen, Martin Luther Beam, son of the late David Beam of Rutherford county, died of pneumonia Sunday afternoon, January 20, 1918 at his home in Mooresboro. He was the brother of John Calvin and David Augustus Beam, both of Shelby, Ed and Alex Beam, Mrs. Columbus Burrus, Mrs. Margaret McMurtry and Mrs. Elizabeth Webb.

Gaffney Ledger, Jan. 21: Fine wood at from twelve to fifteen dollars per cord is the most expensive commodity on the Gaffney market today. Oak wood is much more reasonable in price, in spite of the fact that it is so much heavier to haul, and yet those who ask exorbitant prices for pine say that it is because of the hauling.

The people of Gaffney, especially those who have relatives belonging to the Eighth Company, have been much concerned over the reports that have been current to the effect that certain members of the organization would soon go to France. So many inquiries have been received at this office that it was decided to make an effort to obtain some authentic information as to just when the boys would sail. This move was decided upon because The Ledger feels that it owes a duty to its subscribers to give them all the information possible at all times, and this being a matter which is vitally interesting to a large number of subscribers, it was thought that no trouble and expense would be too great to make in obtaining the information.

After the most strenuous effort, involving much trouble and cost The Ledger has at length found out that exact date when the boys will take ship for foreign lands, and all those who desire to do so may go to Charleston to bid them a fond farewell before they leave. The exact date upon which they will sail is (deleted by censor). The Ledger is indeed sorry that it cannot divulge this information which involved so much trouble to procure.

Chester Reporter, Jan. 31: The executive committee of the Red Cross chapter met Tuesday afternoon at the work-room in the Agassiz building